

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY TERRACE SYSTEMS  
DCR Specifications for No. VSL-4

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary terrace systems best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

An earth embankment, channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope.

To document and improve water quality by reducing slope and slope length to one that will slow the movement of sediment and nutrients from cropland.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice may include:
  - i. Terraces and the necessary leveling and filling to permit installation of an effective system.
  - ii. Removal of stonewalls or hedgerows if necessary to permit installation of an effective system.
  - iii. Materials and installation of underground pipe outlets and other mechanical outlets.
  - iv. Necessary vegetative protective outlets or waterways.
2. A protective outlet or waterway that is installed solely as an outlet for the terrace system and serves no other conservation purpose should be cost-shared as a component of this practice. A protective outlet or waterway which, by itself solves a conservation problem, but also serves as an outlet for a terrace system, should be counted under practice VWP-1 or VWP-3.
3. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 600 Terrace.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
5. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
6. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice.

7. Producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014), must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified nutrient management planner, and must be on file with the local District. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).

C. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

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